



# SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

JANUARY 2013 EDITION Visit us on the web at: [www.seatpleasantmd.gov](http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov)

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## City of Seat Pleasant

### Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

### Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

### Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

### Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

### Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

### Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

### Ward V Councilmember

Eugene F. Kennedy

### At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

### Acting City Administrator

Robert L. Ashton

### Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

### Chief of Police

Chris Cotillio

### Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

### City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Hopefully, you enjoyed the holidays with family, friends, good food and fellowship. We are blessed and very fortunate to have made it to the year 2013. Last year was a good year and I anticipate that 2013 will be an even better year for our beloved community A City of Excellence. Last year we made significant investments in our Public Safety Department,

Your City Council, employees and I are working faithfully on your behalf. Just before the end of the year the City held its annual Legislative Breakfast with our Federal, State and County officials. The purpose of the breakfast was to introduce our legislative priorities and forge stronger alliances with our elected representatives to advocate on behalf of our governments interests.

As a small bed room community we boast magnificent intentions. We see a strong and vibrant future. Our community is a nexus to both the state of Maryland and our nation's capital. There is so much potential and its benefits are no secret. Seat Pleasant is close to two metro sites. We are a walkable community. We are minutes from downtown Washington. We are minutes away from all major highway arteries and direct access to all transportation hubs. Recently, Seat Pleasant received the designation as a Sustainable Community from the State's Housing and Community Development. This uniquely positions us and qualifies us for state funding to help gain funds for our infrastructure needs, economic development priorities and social activity needs.

Resolution 04-05 was adopted by the City Council to approve "A City of Excellence" as the Motto. Since that time our municipality has strived to operate in the fashion of excellence. We are committed to delivering excellent service to our constituents on a daily basis. Since I took office in 2004, I have tripled the size of the police department, purchased new vehicles and upgraded the technology within the department. We have added a line item in our budget to support our Volunteer Fire Department annually. We are the only municipality that has a specific line item to support our Elementary School at \$10,000 each year. We have made significant investments to the tune of over \$2 million dollars in improvements in our infrastructure including roads, gutter and sidewalks. We have maintained a strong financial position boasting of a AA crediting rating. These and so many other improvements have been made are too numerous to enumerate.

Yes, we are moving forward. My good friends on the City Council and I are working cooperatively together and have decided to undertake the largest economic development project of its kind in the country. We have partnered with Krato's Infrastructure, LLC., and broke ground this past September to develop a community of the future where we integrate innovative technology with creative architect-

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

ture establishing local self-reliance and security. This \$73 million investment is a urban lifestyle that is in balance with the ecosystem that sustains life responsibly, organically and economically without sacrificing convenience.

Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence is moving forward. We are committed. We are focused. We are ready to lead and set an example. I encourage all of our residents to become more involved this year then you were last year. Bring your ideas. Participate in the numerous activities and events hosted by our government. If we have more involvement we will become that City of Excellence.

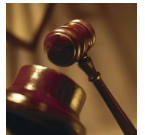
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## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of December.

### Ordinance O-13-07

**Ordinance O-13-07** Budget Amendment for Microphone Upgrade in Council Chambers.



### Resolution R-13-12

**Resolution R-13-12** A Charter Amendment Resolution to Repeal and Re-Enact, with Amendments, Section C-311 of the Charter of the City of Seat Pleasant in order to provide for the Publication of Fair Summaries of Ordinances and to make certain Clarifying Changes; and providing for Compliance with Certain Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland pertaining to Charter Amendments.

### Resolution R-13-14

**Resolution R-13-14** A Charter Amendment Resolution to Repeal and Re-Enact, with Amendments, Section C-820 of the Charter of the City of Seat Pleasant in Order to (1) Clarify or make certain references in such section consistent, (2) Clarify the process by which certain procurement approvals shall be made, (3) Exempt Professional Services Contracts for amounts in excess of \$7,500 from Competitive Bidding Requirements and to specify how negotiated professional services contract may be authorized, and (4) except with respect to the selection of the primary Development Entity with which the City shall enter into any Public-Private Partnership, Exempt contract with individuals or entities involving supplies, materials, equipment, contract of improvements, services or City related expenses for amounts in excess of \$7,500 ancillary to a Public-Private Partnership from competitive bidding requirements and to specify how such negotiated ancillary Public-Private Partnership contracts may be authorized; and providing for Compliance with certain provision f the Annotate Code of Maryland pertaining to Charter Amendments.

Copies of legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Mayor and City Council will meet on the following days in the month of **January**:

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(OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK - MESSAGE CONTINUED)

**Monday, January 7, 2013**

Regular Work Session

Time: 6:00p.m.

**Monday, January 14, 2013**

Public Session

Time: 7:00p.m.

The meetings will be held at:

Seat Pleasant City Hall  
Council Chambers  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743-2125

If you desire to speak before the Council at the Public Session, please contact the City Clerk to register your concerns before the meeting.

**Publication Mailing:**

The Gazette Newspaper has discontinued the **FREE** home delivery of the paper to each resident in the City of Seat Pleasant. However, they have expanded the bulk delivery services to the following locations:

Seat Pleasant City Hall  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Safeway Stores, Inc.  
6300 Central Avenue  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Seat Pleasant Activity Center  
5720 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Fairmount Heights Public Library  
5904 Kolb St.  
Fairmount Heights, MD 20743

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## COUNCIL CORNER

### NEWS ABOUT COUNCILMEMBER PORTER

Council President Kelly Porter was recently named a Regional Director of NBC-LEO (National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials), which is an affiliate of the National League of Cities. The mission of the NBC-LEO Foundation, Inc. is to support and conduct non-partisan research, technical assistance, training, and educational and informational activities and programs to advance African American political participation at the local level, promote municipal employment of African Americans, and develop positive perceptions about government by African American citizens. Regional Directors are elected at the annual NBC-LEO membership meeting by regular (voting) members in good standing. Congratulations Councilman Porter on your achievement.



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### A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER SIMMS

#### SEASON'S GREETINGS!!

I HOPE EACH OF YOU HAD A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PRAY YOU HANE PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. THE MEETINGS FOR WARD ONE WILL RECONVENE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2013 FROM NOON-1:00P.M. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.





## A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHENSON

I TRUST THAT YOU HAD A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND PRAY THAT THE COMING YEAR WILL BE A BLESSED, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS ONE FULL OF PROMISE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS YEAR TO MAKE WARD II THE BEST IT CAN BE.

## A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER YEARGIN

I greet you as the Ward 3 representative of the City of Excellence, This photo is of me and my colleague at the National League of Cities conference in Boston, Massachusetts. During the conference I attended a session concerning sustainable communities where I was able to highlight our P-3 model, since we as a City are on the cutting edge of economic development with our new LEED platinum building project. We as a City played a vital role at the National conference and the state of Maryland stood out as a lead partner of a national agenda. I also received pertinent information on new models of afterschool programs. I look forward to putting the information I received to good use in our City.



## A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS



The Department has been researching alternative snow removal and ice preventive measures. These alternatives include Homemade Brine, Ice B'Gone and De Icer. Also, we are monitoring on a daily basis for information on winter weather advisory forecasts. After a snow warning is issued by the County, the County Executive can declare a State-of-Emergency if snow continues to accumulate. This can happen ANYTIME after snow has started to fall. Please watch news stations and listen to radio stations for weather advisories. A hotline number will be given out through media for residents to call for updates. During snow emergencies we are asking residents to use driveways for parking if they have one. If on-street parking must be used, cars must be parked on the even-numbered side of the street during snow emergency operations. This is very important in order to allow plows to clear residential roadways. Plows cannot maneuver around vehicles to clear roadways. One side of the roadway must be clear of vehicles for plow drivers to effectively perform snow and ice removal services. Snow emergency routes will be determined at another date when weather is deteriorating due to snow accumulation. We have six vehicles that are capable of removing snow. One tractor, two pick-ups, and three dump trucks all equipped to spread salt and plow snow. We have reaffirmed our relationship with our salt suppliers. While we have the equipment to do the important job of snow removal, we still need your assistance to successfully complete this task.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE CITY TREASURER

### IMPORTANT PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE IN DECEMBER 2012

The purpose of this article is to highlight for homeowners in the City of Seat Pleasant the important information contained in the State of Maryland's assessment notice that will be remitted to all homeowners in the City of Seat Pleasant during the month of December and to provide an illustration as to how this information will impact their City real estate taxes.

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As was noted in an earlier newsletter, the State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation will be sending out to all homeowners during the month of December a notice indicating what your house would be valued at on January 1, 2013 and comparing that value to what the value was on January 1, 2012. If you carefully review this comparison you be able to see if there is an increase or decrease in value of your property from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2013. Highlighted below is an tax analysis reflecting what a ten percent increase in a property currently valued at \$150,000.00 in the City of Seat Pleasant would mean in terms of your city real estate taxes.

### Illustration I Tax Analysis

IMPACT ON YOU CITY TAXES OF A 10% INCREASE IN THE ASSESSMENT IN 2013 FOR A PROPERTY VALUED AT \$150,000 2012 IN THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT					
Market Value of the house on January 1, 2012			\$ 150,000		
Market Value of the house on January 1, 2013			\$ 165,000		
Per \$100.00 of Assessed Valuation					
2013			2012		
County			County		
State			State		
P & P 1			P & P 1		
San 2			San 2		
WSTC 3			WSTC 3		
T & G 4			T & G 4		
Ryc 5			Ryc 5		
Swc 6			Swc 6		
Btc 7			Btc 7		
Mun 8	\$957.00		Mun 8	\$870.00	
Total Taxes	\$957.00		Total Taxes	\$870.00	
*Potential Increase in taxes in this illustration is \$87.00					
1. Maryland National Park and Planning			5. Recycling		
2. Storm Drain Maintenance			6. Solid Waste Charge		
3. Washington Suburban Transit Commission			7. Bulky Trash Collection		
4. Trash and Garbage			8. Municipal		

In closing , the illustration above reveals that an ten percent increase in 2013 the value of a property at assessed at \$150,000 in 2012 will result in **an additional eight seven dollar on your city real estate taxes bill.** In the next newsletter I will share with you the process for appealing value information reflected in your assessment notice.



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## **A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **AUTO THEFT PREVENTION DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

"Now that the holiday season is over and things are getting back to normal the police department would like to provide you with some minor steps that you can take to make 2013 a safe and prosperous year. Remember to always be aware of your surroundings. Three things need to be present in order for a crime to occur. 1. A victim, 2. An opportunity, and 3. A motivated suspect. Take any one of these elements away and there will be no crime. That means don't unintentionally make yourself a victim. Be aware of your surroundings. Walk in groups, park your vehicle in lighted areas, don't wear headphones and if you do turn the volume down. If you see suspicious activity call the police. And one last thing don't pile all of those holiday gift boxes for the garbage outside of your house. If you do you're just advertising to the potential suspect what you have inside of your house. Break those boxes up or take them to a dumpster somewhere. And remember the police department will come to your house and conduct a home security survey at no cost to the home owner. Just call and make an appointment. Happy New Year!"

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## **A REMINDER FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

To all of the renters in Seat Pleasant, rental permit applications have gone out to the property owners. If you are renting a home in Seat Pleasant please contact the code enforcement office so that we can make a note of it. It's required that all rental properties within the city receive rental permits annually and the cost is \$100.00. You can download a copy of the application from the City website at [www.seatpleasantmd.gov](http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov).

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## **A WORD FROM CPAC**

### **YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



Do you ever wonder if regular people like you and me make a difference when it comes to crime? The answer, without a doubt, is absolutely! Burglaries are still occurring throughout our community but the police department is seeing a decrease in their numbers and our officers have made multiple arrests because of you. We are looking out for our fellow neighbors more and more and we're reporting things that don't look right. We realize that the same person breaking into our neighbor's house could easily turn around and do the same thing to

ours. So please, if you see any suspicious activity during the day or night, pick up the phone and call the police. The non-emergency number is [301-352-1200](tel:301-352-1200) but call 911 if you're in danger. Speaking of burglaries, we know, unfortunately, that juveniles conduct a lot of this crime during the school year. If you observe kids walking around during school hours – and you know they should be in school – report it to the police department. An officer will respond and make sure they are taken back to school.

Two quick things:

Don't leave your car unattended when you warm up your car in the morning – no matter how tempting it is (even if it's freezing outside and there's a layer of ice on your windshield); it's against the law.

Don't leave items in plain view in your parked vehicle. This just makes it way too easy for thieves to break a window and steal your stuff - they can be in and out before you know it. I recently got into my car at a nearby metro station and was shocked to find that ten cars had been burglarized in broad daylight! The police said that things had been left in plain sight on the front/back seats and consoles of all the cars that were hit. Don't let your car be a target!

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( CPAC MESSAGE CONTINUED)

Please be aware of our surroundings and keep all of these things in mind. I strongly believe that we can do anything if we work together.

Help us help you. If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at [cpac.seatpleasant@live.com](mailto:cpac.seatpleasant@live.com).

Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

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## CITY HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The City of Seat Pleasant successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. This annual event is held to inform our County, State and Federal representatives of the legislative priorities for the City of Seat Pleasant.

The legislative priorities of Seat Pleasant were discussed with Federal, State and County officials which included but not limited to: Homeowner's Tax Credit for Seniors to help our seniors "age in place" if they choose to remain in their homes, Public Works Facility Improvements as the City is seeking support for Capital Improvement funds for our Public Works Building and Economic Development assistance to market Seat Pleasant and make connections with the appropriate members of the development community to help implement revitalization.

This year's guests included Lt. Governor **Anthony Brown** Senator **Joanne Benson**, Delegate **Carolyn J.B. Howard**, Delegate **Michael Vaughn**, and County Council Member **Karen Toles**.

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## CITY HOSTS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

In response to recent weather events, the City hosted an Emergency Preparedness Training on December 15, 2012 at the Seat Pleasant Activity. Presenters included **Earnest Walker** of the Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management, **Tami Watkins** from PEPCO, **Joy Hatchette** of the Maryland Insurance Administration, **Reginald Carnegie**, Seat Pleasant Resident and Ham Radio Operator, **Johnny Thompson**, the City's Public Works Department and Officer **Earl Ivey** of the Seat Pleasant Police Department. The event was moderated by Mayor **Eugene Grant**. The City plans to have additional sessions in the future to help residents be prepared in the event of a major emergency.

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## HEALTHY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2013

It's that time again when people make New Year's Resolutions. This is great but make sure to include your health in your quest for change. Here are a few suggestions:

- Make doctor appointments for preventative maintenance rather than waiting until you're really sick
- Find a low-impact exercise (walking, dancing in place, etc.) that you will stick to
- Try cooking old favorites in new, healthier ways
- Drink more water rather than sodas and processed beverages
- Consume much less sugar in any form (condiments, desserts, coffee)
- Spend more time outdoors rather than in front of the TV or that computer screen
- Finally, get more rest (unbroken sleep).

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH!

**2013**

City of Seat Pleasant

*"A City of Excellence"*

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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FIRST CLASS  
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PERMIT #235



**THE MAYOR AND CITY  
COUNCIL**

**WISH YOU AND YOURS**

**A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**